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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/690,862	10/20/2003	Charles Dudley Copper	17921 (AT20958-1029)	6929

7590 10/27/2004
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EXAMINER

GILMAN, ALEXANDER

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 10/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/690,862

Applicant(s)

COPPER ET AL.

Examiner

Alexander D Gilman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 18 and 19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,6-8,10,11 and 13-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,5,9 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki.

With regard to claim 1, Suzuki (US 6,325,680) discloses an electrical contact (2) comprising:

a body having a first wall and a second wall opposed to said first wall;

a rigid lance (46) integrally formed with said first wall and projecting away from said second wall; and

a deflatable biasing beam (50) integrally formed with said second wall and extends away from said first wall in a direction opposite to said lance.

Said biasing beam being compressed when said contact is installed into a housing, which is not claimed in claim 1 positively, if the housing has no an anchoring hole.

With regard to claim 2, Suzuki discloses that said second wall (50) extends obliquely to said first wall.

With regard to claim 4, Suzuki discloses that said first wall further comprises a contact beam (32) extending downwardly from said first wall

With regard to claim 6, Suzuki discloses at least one side wall (8), said side wall extending above a top surface of said first wall.

With regard to claim 7, Suzuki discloses that said body is substantially rectangular.

With regard to claim 8, Suzuki discloses that said body comprises a longitudinal axis, said biasing beam (50) tapered along said longitudinal axis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 10, 11, 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Chen.

With regard to claims 1, 10, Suzuki discloses an electrical connector system comprising:

at least one housing (100) comprising a longitudinal cavity therein', and

an electrical contact (2) situated within said cavity',

wherein said contact comprises:

opposed top and bottom walls; a rigid lance (46) integrally formed with said top wall, said lance in

abutting contact with a portion of the said housing; and

a deflectable biasing beam (50) extending from said bottom wall and

said biasing beam contacting a portion of said housing and providing a biasing retention force thereto to maintain said contact in position relative to said housing.

Suzuki does not teach a deflection of said biasing beam in a direction transverse to a longitudinal axis of said cavity providing a biasing retention force directed toward said top wall to maintain said contact in position relative to said housing, since in an example embodiment the contact is retained using an anchoring hole..

Chen (US 6,042,433) disclose a deflection of said biasing beam in a direction transverse to a longitudinal axis of said cavity providing a biasing retention force.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the configuration of the biasing beam which being deflected to retain the contact in the housing, as taught by Chen , to prevent the biasing beam from deformation if a wire become entangled in the biasing beam (Chen ,col. 3, lines 1-2) and avoid using a special removing tool when the contact should be removed from the housing.

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With regard to claim 11, Suzuki when modified by Chen, discloses that said contact (2) comprises: a body having said opposed top and bottom walls; said rigid lance integrally formed with said top wall and projecting outward therefrom, said lance in abutting contact with a portion of said contact cavity', and said deflectable biasing beam (50) integrally formed with said bottom wall and extending outward therefrom, said biasing beam contacting a portion of said contact cavity and providing a biasing retention force thereto to maintain said contact in position relative to said housing.

With regard to claim 13, Suzuki when modified by Chen discloses (Chen) that said biasing beam contacting a bottom of said contact.

With regard to claim 14, Suzuki when modified by Chen discloses that said rigid lance (46) is integrally formed with said contact.

With regard to claim 15, Suzuk when modified by Chen discloses that said biasing beam (50) is integrally formed with said contact.

With regard to claim 16, Suzuki when modified by Chen discloses that said contact comprises a contact body, said biasing beam extending from a leading end of said contact body.

With regard to claim 17, Suzuki when modified by Chen discloses that said housing comprises a retention window (138).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Regarding claim 1, Applicant's arguments filed 08/10/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the biasing beam in Suzuki (the prior art) cannot be compressed within the housing (100) to provide a biasing force to retain the contact in position with respect to the housing.

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However, claim 1 claim a contact, not an electrical connector system which includes a housing. The example embodiment (Fig. 4) in Suzuki does not prevent (Suzuki, col.5, lines 14-20) using the contact(2) with a housing, where retaining the contact can be achieved by elastic restoring force in the biased beam. Structurally, the Suzuki's contact can be used in a housing without the anchoring hole, since the housing is not positively claimed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18, 19 are allowed.

Claims 3, 5, 9, 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

10/20/2004

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Gilman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ALEXANDER GILMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER